

Item 5 – Appendix B – ARMs Funding Consultation Responses

Responses

<p>While we welcome any proposed increase in ARMS funding we would note that this funding has remained without increase fomr 2016, until April 2023 when the 10% increase was applied. For a school with an ASD unit, should funding had risen by inflation in the period equivalent value now of the place/top up funding for this ASD provision would now be £27,013 rather than the £23,429 proposed. This would equate to a 31% increase since 2016 rather than the 14% proposed (Source: Bank of England inflation calculator)</p>
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<p>Additional spending is appreciated, however the additional percentage does not match the inflationary costs that our resource is experiencing.</p> <p>This represents a below inflation rise (whilst costs are rising at a much higher rate). The percentage increase should be at least in line with the percentage increase in funding for EHCP's in mainstream and academies.</p> <p>We also request increased funding for pupils within our ARMS who have been identified as requiring specialist SLD provision and are awaiting a suitable placement.</p>
<p>Comparisons with other ARMS and boroughs need to be made again in April so we can check that we are aligned with averages for similar provisions in similar boroughs.</p>
<p>An increase is very welcome, and vital, in terms of meeting the more complex needs of the children we are now providing an education for in our ARMS unit.</p> <p>Additional spending is appreciated, however the additional percentage does not match the inflationary costs that our ARMS provision is experiencing.</p> <p>We request an increase in line with inflation as a minimum, but to match the ambitions of the LA to be better than average, a 7% increase is requested. We also request increased funding for pupils within our ARMS who are on the pre-formal pathway of our ARMS curriculum. These pupils require funding that is in line with funding for SLD pupils. Funding should be linked to complexity of needs within an ARMS provision.</p> <p>(redacted) has dedicated classrooms, sensory spaces in ARMS and more recently created spaces around school too (funded by the school). We have specialist teachers and dedicated support staff in ARMS and mainstream, and we have invested heavily in developing additional curriculum pathways to support the needs of the increasing numbers of pupils with complex needs. The creation of these curriculum pathways has been with the support of external specialists who the school has bought in. This is to ensure that we are making reasonable adaptations to meet the increasingly complex needs of children applying for places in the provision. Our ARMS cohort has changed dramatically over the years and we have adapted our provision to meet these challenges</p>

but this has been at a financial cost to the school. We feel these adaptations should be funded with an increase proportionate to the offers made by schools and the challenges faced. To summarise, as a school we have invested hugely in adapting our ARMS provision (and mainstream) in order to try and not just meet needs but allow children to thrive in our school. We absolutely need an increase in funding (at the levels requested) but ask for the needs of individual school's adaptations, and the amount of high-level needs being met, to be taken into account.

Additional spending is appreciated; however, the additional percentage does not match the inflationary costs that our resource is experiencing.

We request an increase in line with inflation of at least 4.7%, but to match the ambitions of the LA to be better than average, a 7% increase is requested.

We also request increased funding for pupils within our ARMS who are on the pre-formal pathway of our ARMS curriculum. These pupils require funding that is in line with funding for SLD pupils. (redacted)

Providing this is in line with the average funding for these places

Due to our pupils being integrated into their classes they also require staff trained to a high level This is being funded by the school along with training for the Teachers. This is a costly model and supported by specialist to support pupils integrating with their peers.

Pupils who do not have an ARMS place are funded at the highest Band and this does need to be considered in funding.

All funding increase is welcomed and seriously needed.

We would be interested to know how this compares to funding in other London boroughs and whether this level of funding compares favourably